

STATE NEWS

FROM CURRITUCK TO CHEROKEE.

Items of Interest Gleaned From Our Correspondents and Exchanges.

Yadkin Ripple: We are informed that there are about fifteen cases of smallpox in and around East Bend, this county.

The candidates for the Governorship, active and receptive, that have been spoken of by friends are: Turner, Davidson, Cunningham, Graham, Doughton, Stedman, Craig, Glenn, Carr and State Auditor Dixon. The thirteenth name has not yet been mentioned.

During the present month fifteen new rural free delivery routes have been established in this State, bringing the total number up to 337. Only one route has been dropped, this one being at Elizabeth City. Its length was only about a mile and the pay only \$50 a year.

Waashington dispatch, 29th: All day long and extending into the night a medium-sized crowd of negroes, led by an elder, have been in the county court-house praying and singing and formulating a petition to Congress to pass the Hanna Bill introduced into the last Congress for the purpose of pensioning the ex-slaves.

Of the new comet the Raleigh correspondent of the Charlotte Observer says: "The comet could be quite plainly seen here during the past three nights. It is near the great 'Dipper' and is in a line with the two westward stars of the body of the 'Dipper.' It is quite luminous and large when seen through an opera glass or field glass, but only one tail is visible with a glass of that power. The comet can easily be seen with the naked eye."

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is more than gratified at the news which comes of the greatest educational canvass now in progress in the State. Congressman John H. Small writes that the campaign in Gates has resulted in great good, better schools, new ones, consolidation of school districts and the raising of money by subscription (\$425 in one district) as well as assurances of the voting of special tax in various parts of the county. It was promised some months ago that this educational movement in 1903 would exceed that of last year, and it is doing so.

Col. Olds: Your correspondent interviewed a gentleman, now residing here, regarding the statement that peonage existed in Halifax county. The gentleman said he did not wish his name given, but last year there was what he termed "peonage" in that county; that about a dozen managers of farms lying about the Roanoke River induced negroes to get in debt to them and then had them before a magistrate, who would ask the negroes whether they would rather go to jail or work out the debt, and that the negroes always

chose to work it out, thinking they would otherwise be jailed. He says that eighteen negroes, one a woman, were thus held and locked up at night in what he terms a "stockade," and that sometimes there were guards. When he was asked if this had gone on long, he said he thought for four or five years, but did not believe the system now existed, and that he was sure it did not now exist on farms where he was last year, because the new manager of the farm had said he would not permit such a thing. He says that last year a Halifax County lawyer of high character and ability spoke of this system and declared he would expose and end it, if he never did anything else.

Last Week's North Carolina Crop Bulletin

Cotton has continued to do well, and improvement has extended into the northeast section, where the crop has heretofore been most backward; laying by cotton is nearing completion in the south portion, but further north the plants are still too small to receive the last plowing; cotton is blooming freely and appears to be bolling well; on light, sandy land in the section where moisture is most deficient the plants are small and are blooming to the top. Corn continues in fairly good condition, but generally needs rain, especially on uplands where old corn is beginning to fire and turn yellow. Good rains are needed to mature the early crop. Tobacco is ripening fast, and cutting and curing continue under favorable conditions, the crop is curing well, but a short and light crop is indicated. Tobacco is also suffering for want of moisture, and in some counties the lower portion of plants are firing. Gardens are suffering from drought. Minor crops need rain, but continue in good condition, and have largely received last cultivation. The amount of cowpeas seeded both for hay and for the improvement of lands was very large. Wheat threshing is nearly over, and practically all the oats have now been harvested. Rice is excellent. Some Irish potatoes have been planted for the fall crop. Melons are late and poor. Apples and peaches are ripening, also Concord grapes.

North Carolinians Badly Hurt Trying to Get Something for Nothing.

The recent slump in the stock market has caused Greensboro to lose a white-haired visitor, who spent three months and \$10,000 here last year bucking against the stock ticker. A few weeks ago the sporty but erst-while "busted" gentleman turned up again. He told the "boys" he had been hard at work since he dropped his pile and had accumulated just \$1,653, and was going to try his luck again. He tried at the wrong time again, for he left yesterday with \$53, saying he wanted to get back home on it. When he left last year he said that he had never before speculated in stocks but had caught the fever while in Greens-

boro and it literally burned him up. The most popular stocks in Greensboro and Winston-Salem, since cotton got out of reach, have been American Tobacco, Virginia-Carolina Chemical, Brooklyn Rapid Transit and United States Steel. The decline in all of these has been something surprising to their holders, especially the great drop in Brooklyn Transit, Steel and Chemical. One dealer in the latter at Winston is reported to be clinging on like grim death, \$40,000 in the hole, and others there are terribly broke up over the turn of affairs. The biggest casualty reported here is the probable loss of \$12,000 by one man, but as prices are better today, he may have pluck and money enough to weather the storm. But the hosts of little fish, clerks, office men, salaried employes, etc., who take \$10 to \$100 nibbles at the tempting cake, hoping to win a fortune, have all turned loose and let go, not being able to put up the margins or not caring to.

Out of this army of little speculators, somebody has reaped hundreds of thousands of dollars in the past ten days, in North Carolina alone, most of the money going North.—Greensboro Special to Charlotte Observer.

Farmers' Rally at Hillsboro, August 12.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The State Farmers' Alliance meets at Alliance Headquarters near Hillsboro, August 11, 12 and 13.

Wednesday, August 12, there will be a general Farmers' Rally, to which everybody is invited.

Addresses will be made by Dr. C. W. Burkett, professor of Agriculture, North Carolina A. & M. College; Dr. B. W. Kilgore, Director North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. F. L. Stevens, professor of Biology, North Carolina A. & M. College; Hon. E. L. Daughtridge, one of the most successful farmers in Eastern Carolina; and Rev. Chas. E. Maddry, Superintendent of Public Instruction for Orange County.

Addresses are also expected from Messrs. H. M. Cates, of Alamance County; John Graham, of Warren County, and others. Every speaker will discuss some subject of interest and importance to our farming interests.

All farmers are invited to come and bring their families. Bring your baskets with you, and let us have an old-fashioned farmer's picnic, and a good time generally.

Speaking will begin at 10.30 a. m. Come! You cannot afford to miss these valuable addresses, and you will be welcome whether or not you have ever been a member of the Alliance.

T. B. PARKER, Sec.

Winston-Salem dispatch, 31st: In the Superior Court to-day Judge McNeill imposed a fine of \$400 and costs upon Mr. N. Glenn Williams for cow-hiding District Attorney A. E. Holton in this city a few months ago. The costs in the case aggregate \$130.

North Carolina Farming Notes.

Gastonia Gazette: The apple crop is better than usual this year. In the Cherryville section it is said to be abundant.

Fayetteville dispatch: The increase in the value of pine timber lands is so great as to be unexplained in North Carolina. Such lands in the vicinity of Fayetteville, which five or six years ago were held at \$6 an acre, cannot now be bought for \$30.

Laurinburg Exchange, July 29th: Between 3,000 and 4,000 crates of canteloupes will be shipped from Laurinburg this week. Several cars of watermelons have already been shipped and the season will open up in good shape by the first of next week.

Elkin Cor. Post: The apple crop in the mountains and along the foothills is very fine. I passed a number of orchards on the steep mountain side, and am told that in the gathering season help is stationed at the foot to catch and stop the fruit as it rolls down the almost perpendicular heights.

Sanford Express: Some of the cotton buyers and mill men are offering the farmers as high as ten cents a pound for their cotton to be delivered in the fall. We have heard of no "takers" at these figures. Cotton will no doubt be a good price in the fall and the farmers may get more than ten cents for it.

Charlotte dispatch: Charlotte is enjoying the distinction just now of being the highest cotton market in the world. In Charlotte for the past few days, the market price of the staple has been 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents, while the highest price elsewhere is 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. It is true that very little cotton is coming into the Charlotte market, but every bale that reaches here is swooped down upon quickly and the merchants are glad to get it at the present fabulous price.

Col. Olds: In an interview to-day with State Entomologist Franklin Sherman, regarding the San Jose scale, he said: "It is now in thirty-two counties. During the past fortnight Iredell has been added to the counties in which it exists. It is widely scattered over the State and is about as prevalent in one section as in another. Southern Pines is the most infected locality and the pest must have begun its work there about as soon as at any place in the State."

New Bern Journal: Ordinary farm labor is higher in this section now than it has ever been before. The reporter was present at the paying off of a lot of cotton choppers yesterday, and noticed that girls, hardly more than children, were paid fifty and sixty cents per day, while grown women received as high as seventy-five cents for farm work. The writer well remembers that fifteen to twenty years ago, women cotton hands were plentiful and quite eager for employment at thirty and fifty cents a day. The best men could only get fifty cents.